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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/653,800	09/03/2003	Shintaro Oshima	1001-020	4534
26272 7590 04/19/2007 COWAN LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN P.C. JOHN J TORRENTE 1133 AVE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 10036			EXAMINER NGUYEN, LUONG TRUNG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2622	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/19/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/653,800

Applicant(s)

OSHIMA, SHINTARO

Examiner

LUONG T. NGUYEN

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-9 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 10 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/04/07.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 filed on 1/04/2007 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi (US 5,739,853).

Regarding claim 1, Takahashi discloses an image-pickup apparatus to which a lens apparatus can be mounted removably, comprising:

a linking box (lens seat 1, escutcheon 3, bracket 4, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47) provided with a lens mount portion (lens seat 1, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47) to which the lens apparatus can be mounted;

an image-pickup device unit (image pickup element 6, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47) that receives light that receives light that has passed through the lens mount portion and the linking box;

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a main chassis (front chassis 8, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47) that is arranged between the linking box and the image-pickup device unit, and that includes an aperture portion through which the light passes;

wherein the linking box is fixed to the main chassis (lens seat 1 is fixed to front chassis 8 by screws 10D, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47), and the image-pickup device unit is fixed to the linking box from a side opposite to the linking box side with respect to the main chassis (image pickup 6 is held into mounting seat 5, which is fixed to the rear surface of bracket 4 by screws 10B, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47).

Regarding claim 2, Takahashi discloses wherein the linking box is fastened to the main chassis at a plurality of fastening positions (lens seat 1 is fixed to front chassis 8 by screws 10D, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47), and the image-pickup device unit is fastened to the linking box at a plurality of fastening positions (image pickup 6 is held into mounting seat 5, which is fixed to the rear surface of bracket 4 by screws 10B, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47); wherein each of the fastening positions at which the linking box is fastened to the main chassis is located at a position near or adjacent to one of a plurality of the fastening positions at which the image-pickup device unit is fastened to the linking box (figure 6).

Regarding claim 3, Fukuda discloses wherein at least a portion of the linking box is near a location where the lens mount portion is provided is linked to a linking portion provided integrally with the main chassis (figure 6).

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Regarding claim 12, Takahashi discloses an image-pickup system comprising:

an image-pickup apparatus comprising:

a linking box (lens seat 1, escutcheon 3, bracket 4, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47) provided with a lens mount portion (lens seat 1, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47);

an image-pickup device unit (image pickup element 6, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47) that receives light that has passed through the lens mount portion and the linking box;

a main chassis (front chassis 8, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47) that is arranged between the linking box and the image-pickup device unit, and that includes an aperture portion through which the light passes;

a lens apparatus that comprises an image-taking lens and that can be mounted removably to the lens mount portion (lens mounted on lens seat 1, figure 6, column 1, lines 10-46);

wherein the linking box is fixed to the main chassis (lens seat 1 is fixed to front chassis 8 by screws 10D, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47), and the image-pickup device unit is fixed to the linking box from a side opposite to the linking box side with respect to the main chassis (image pickup 6 is held into mounting seat 5, which is fixed to the rear surface of bracket 4 by screws 10B, figure 6, column 1, lines 12-47), and the image-pickup device unit receives light that has passed through the lens apparatus (figure 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi (US 5,739,853) in view of Mogamiya et al. (US 7,075,642).

Regarding claim 5, Takahashi fails to specifically disclose wherein the linking box is provided with a viewfinder optical system and a mirror unit that reflects light and guides it toward the viewfinder optical system. However, Mogamiya et al. teaches an electronic camera, which includes a view finder optical system (focusing screen 27, pentagonal prism 28, eye piece system 29, figure 1, column 4, lines 45-59) and a mirror unit (mirror 23, figure 1, column 4, lines 27-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Takahashi by the teaching of Mogamiya et al. in order to let a user can view a captured scene.

Regarding claim 6, Mogamiya et al. discloses a focusing screen (focusing screen 27, figure 1, column 4, lines 45-55) that serves as an image-forming plane of the light that has been reflected by the mirror unit.

6. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi (US 5,739,853) in view of Hamada et al. (US 5,218,442).

Regarding claim 7, Takahashi fail to specifically a focus detection unit that performs focus detection based on the light that has been reflected by the mirror unit. However, Hamada et al. teaches a camera which includes a focus detection unit (focus detection module 36, figure

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3A, column 5, lines 5-21). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Takahashi by the teaching of Hamada et al. in order to detect a focus condition of a camera.

7. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi (US 5,739,853).

Regarding claims 8-9, Takahashi fail to specifically disclose the main chassis is a metal component and the main chassis is a metal component made by press-forming. However, Official Notice is taken that the using metal as a chassis and the chassis is a metal component made by press-forming is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use metal as a chassis and the chassis is made by press-forming in the device of Takahashi in order to make the life of using a camera longer.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 4, 10-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **LUONG T. NGUYEN** whose telephone number is (571) 272-7315. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **DAVID L. OMETZ** can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LN LN
04/14/07

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ometz', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER